Up to Feb. 24, 1968

2,770 U.S. aircraft were downed in the D.R.V.N.

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SOUTH Vietnam *In the Night of Feb. 17 and on Feb. 18, 1968*

P.L.A.F. LAUNCHED POWERFUL ATTACKS AGAINST 70 ENEMY BASES IN 20 CITIES

☆ Violent Assaults on Westmoreland's H.Q. and Puppet Inter-Arms Command ☆ Tan Son Nhat Airfield Set Afire.

IN HUE People's Armed Forces Repelled All U.S.-Puppet Counter-Attacks and Kept Control of City.

ACCORDING to *Giai Phong Press Agency*, in the night of Feb. 17 and on Feb. 18 the South Vietnamese revolutionary armed forces hammered simultaneously at 70 enemy bases and positions in 20 cities and towns.

In **Saigon**, enemy key positions and leading organs were violently attacked, among them: Westmoreland's H.Q., the H.Q. of the puppet Inter-Arms Command, the Directorate General of Police, the H.Q. of Saigon special area, the Quang Trung training centre.

At Tan Son Nhat airfield, 400 U.S. and puppet troops were killed or wounded, mostly pilots and technicians; others were captured; 16 aircraft and a great quantity of military equipment were destroyed. The runway was cut in many parts and the airbase was put out of operation. The enemy logistic base at Nha Be, the ammunition dumps north and south of that city and two ships transporting ammunition on the Saigon river were also blasted. Many storages were set ablaze. Meanwhile the P.L.A.F. fiercely attacked the Phu Lam radar centre (southwest of Saigon) and the police stations in the 5th, 6th and 7th districts. Electricity in the radar centre was cut off, many posts were overrun, and cruel policemen punished. Road traffic and river navigation were interrupted.

In co-ordination with the battles in downtown Saigon, the revolutionary forces around the city simultaneously attacked the enemy and landed them in an inextricable fix.

Big fires raged and chain explosions were heard throughout the day of Feb. 18 at the **Long Binh** logistic base of the U.S., 20km northeast of Saigon. The aircraft park of the puppet 23rd Air Squadron and the Phuoc Longsub-sector were heavily damaged.

Phu Loi and **Lai Khe** airbases, 25 to 30 km north of Saigon, were also stormed; the 1st Battalion (8th Regiment, puppet 5th Division) was wiped out.

The **Rau Nghia** military sector, **Duc Mo** sub-sector and **Hiep Hoa** military position, about 30 km west of Saigon, were also fiercely attacked.

At Hiep Hoa, about 1,500 workers of the Sugar Refinery and the local people, armed with side-arms and bamboo sticks, in co-ordination with the P.L.A.F., arrested over 100 cruel agents, spies and policemen. Faced with the revolutionary upsurge, a "civil guard" company surrendered.

In other towns such as **Phan Thiet**, **Ben Tre**, **Soc Trang**, **Vinh Long**, **Bien Hoa**, **Tan An**, the local people and armed forces inflicted heavy losses on the enemy.

In **Phan Thiet** (capital of Binh Thuan province) the P.L.A.F. and people attacked and overran the provincial administrative offices, the "open arms" centre, the public works and economic offices. The revolutionary forces attacked the Quang Trung training centre and the prison and set free 700 patriots detained by the enemy; they cut off Highways 1 and 8.

In **Ben Tre** province, the P.L.A.F. violently assaulted many key positions of the enemy in the provincial capital, including the base of the 10th Regiment of the puppet 7th Division, the 3rd and 4th Battalions of the 10th Regiment, the puppet intelligence company, a depot of artillery shells. Military positions and puppet administrative offices at Giong Trom, Ba Tri, Binh Dai districts were simultaneously stormed.

In **Quang Tri** province on Feb.18, the P.L.A.F. artillery pounded U.S. bases at Cua Viet port, the Dong Ha airfield, Height 241, Con Tien, Doc Mieu. At the same time they encircled enemy positions and cut off their supply lines.

According to initial reports, that day, the P.L.A.F. killed or wounded over 100 enemy troops, heavily damaged the Dong Ha airfield, a 175mm gun emplacement at Height 241, set afire many enemy storages at Cua Viet.

In **Khe Xanh**, U.S. troops were still in a most uncomfortable situation. Allen Belcher of Dayton, Ohio, airman of second class, said: "Being in Khe Sanh is like sitting in an electric chair and waiting for someone to pull the switch" (*Reuter*, Feb. 13 1968).

Meanwhile in **Hue**, fighting has been going on over the past three weeks; P.L.A.F. fighters helped by the local people foiled all enemy counter-attacks; the N.F.L. flag continued to flutter on top the 43m high flag-tower.

From Feb. 14 to 22, according to initial figures, Hue's people and armed forces put out of action nearly 2,000 U.S., puppet and satellite troops and sank or damaged 14 U.S. ships on the Perfume River.

PAGE 4: **An article by CHIEN THANG, military commentator of "People's Army" journal.**

PAGE 8: **HUE, CITY OF BEAUTY, CITY OF GLORY.**

THE MEANING OF THE SAN ANTONIO FORMULA

RECENTLY, in face of the pressing demand for an unconditional end to the bombing of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam with a view to eventual talks between the D.R.V.N. and the U.S.A., the American leaders have talked abundantly about their famous "San Antonio formula." In his State of the Union message of January 17, 1968, Johnson saw in it "a question which must be answered" before an end to the bombing. Secretary of State Dean Rusk considered it "a basis for a decision to stop the bombing of North Viet Nam" (Feb. 4, on T.V.). In his Feb. 14 statement, he repeated that this formula "remains the basis of our position."

TRICKY WORDING

HOW does this famous formula go?

Here are its terms, as presented by Johnson in his San Antonio speech of September 29, 1967: "The United States is willing immediately to stop aerial and naval bombardment of North Viet Nam when this will lead promptly to productive discussions. We would assume that while discussions proceed, North Viet Nam would not take advantage of the bombing cessation or limitation."

Thus, the formula was carefully divided into two parts.

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THE WHOLE WORLD SUPPORTS US

South Viet Nam People's Brilliant Exploits Highly Praised by World's Peoples

SINCE Jan. 31, 1968, the world's peoples have been unstintedly praising the repeated victorious attacks of the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam on the towns and cities there.

The World Federation of Trade Unions, the Woman's International Democratic Federation, the International Union of Students have issued statements hailing the glorious exploits of the South Vietnamese people in the Spring of 1968.

The W.F.T.U. stressed, "The resounding exploits of the South Viet Nam Liberation Armed Forces and people mark a new stage in the struggle for national liberation. These exploits bring them nearer to the day when the legitimate aspirations and inviolable rights of the Vietnamese people will be fulfilled. The W.F.T.U. and working class in the world will do their best to contribute actively to the total victory of Viet Nam."

Many mass organizations in Asia, Africa and Latin America have expressed their gratification at the greater and greater victories won by the South Vietnamese people, the intrepid combatants in the frontline of the struggle against the U.S. imperialist aggressors. They regard the Vietnamese people's struggle as "a shining example for the national liberation movement in the world."

In its statement welcoming the victories of the South Vietnamese people, the Permanent Secretariat of the Organization of Solidarity of Asian, African and Latin American Peoples, wrote, "The first results of the revolution in South Viet Nam once more confirm the shining truth that at the present juncture, a people, however small and weak it may be, if it is closely united in struggle and is resolute to wrest back independence and freedom, will be quite able to defeat any aggressor, even U.S. imperialism."

Other organizations such as the Association of Asian and African Lawyers, the organization of Solidarity of Afro-Asian Peoples also expressed the same elation.

Messages, letters and statements full of enthusiasm of the Venezuelan National Liberation Front, Front of Liberation of Somali, the Mission of the Party of African Independence of Senegal, the Kamerun Nationalities' Alliance, the Union of Algerian Women, the Union of French Women, the Union of Japanese Women (Shinfujin Fujin Rengoo) said that the truth is on the side of the Vietnamese people, and strongly condemned the U.S. war of aggression. The letter of the Representation of the Movement for Independence of Puerto Rico to the South Viet Nam N.F.L. said, "We are highly elated and enthusiastic at the victorious punitive attacks on the U.S. imperialists. The Porto-Rican youth and people re-affirm their strong solidarity with the heroic Vietnamese people. The Porto-Rican youth continue to refuse to serve as cannon-fodder for the U.S. imperialists in Viet Nam as a token of their solidarity with the brother Vietnamese people."

The Representation of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. in Algeria received from the Canadian Committee in Support of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. a moving letter saying that they are very happy to see that the South Vietnamese people and army have inflicted defeats on the U.S. aggressors and their quislings. The Vietnamese people are carrying out the anti-imperialist mission. Their victory enhances the progressive Canadians' energy and strength and encourages them to fight on against U.S. imperialism.

The Vietnamese people are most grateful for the wholehearted support and assistance of the brother socialist countries and progressive and peace-loving people in the world. The encouragement of the world peoples stimulates us to rush enthusiastically forward to wipe out the U.S. aggressors and win greater victories.

HAVANA WORLD CULTURAL CONGRESS

FOR THE SAKE OF WORLD INTELLIGENTSIA'S HONOUR, SUPPORT VIET NAM

At the World Cultural Congress held in Havana from January 4 to 14, 1968, 500 intellectuals including writers, poets, artists, philosophers, sociologists, economists, scientists, professors, journalists... from 70 countries unanimously passed a message to the world's intellectuals calling on them to support the Vietnamese people in their struggle against American aggression, and a resolution on Viet Nam. Following are excerpts from the Resolution.—Ed.

...IN the American war arsenal, culture of enslavement and decadence is a weapon not less dangerous and barbarous than toxic chemicals which kill children. The American administration has committed not only the crime of aggression, but also the most serious war crimes including the crime of genocide, given its magnitude and continuity. According to the stipulations of the Nuremberg Tribunal, these crimes are crimes against mankind...

With its wonderful strategy and tactics, the people's war waged in South and North Viet Nam has defeated the U.S. "special war" and "limited war" in South Viet Nam and the U.S war of destruction in North Viet Nam. In this fighting, the Vietnamese people have defeated the Americans, not only with arms. Their patriotic, democratic, deeply national culture is an excellent antidote against American culture. The struggle of the Vietnamese people also constitutes the banner, the focus and the summit of the revolutionary struggle of the working people and the world oppressed peoples against U.S. imperialism. Their stirring example has enhanced revolutionary consciousness as regards the revolutionary struggle of the peoples, particularly those of Asia, Africa and Latin America...

It is in Viet Nam that the fate of the world is being decided, it is in the Vietnamese theatre that culture and civilization on our globe is being decided. Our supreme stake is no other than the freedom and dignity of man. The complete victory of Viet Nam will be the victory of all nations.

It ensues that the duty of everyone, of every people, of every justice- and peace-loving government, is to do everything possible to stay the criminal hand of U.S. imperialism and grant maximum assistance to the great struggle of the Vietnamese people against the most barbarous aggressors ever known in history. Let the peoples of the world step up their revolutionary struggle against U.S. imperialism. Attacked from all sides, the common enemy will be all the weaker on every front of the struggle. Intellectuals in numerous countries, including the U.S.A., have so far strongly supported the struggle of the Vietnamese people. Let

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THE MEANING...

(Continued from page 1)

The first is an answer to the unanimous demand of public opinion. You want an end to the bombing? All right, on condition that it quickly leads to talks between the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the United states, talks which should be "serious" and "productive" and should deal with essential questions. The American ruling circles readily quote this first part of the formula, often overlooking the second part or only citing it when needed. There is a reason to it.

This second part is precisely the "tail of the wolf" in the fable. It is the very essence of the San Antonio formula, which repeats in more cunning terms the theme of "reciprocity," that of "ending the bombing under certain conditions." President Johnson was careful to use the conditional mood and the mildest term possible—"We would assume...". So much so that *UPI* of January 30 wondered whether the President was demanding a condition or expressing a hope. The truth is that the United States is asking for a price to the ending of its criminal bombing. The D.R.V.N., it says, must, as a sign of "reciprocity," abstain from taking "advantage" from this cessation, which implies there must be restrictions on the normal activities of a sovereign people.

BARGAINING OVER THE PRICE

IT seems that Washington is aware that it could not openly put the aggressor and his victim on the same footing. After all, an American expeditionary corps of half a million men has come half way around the world to wage war on a country which has never done any harm to the American people. That is why the American leaders proclaim their readiness to go "more than half way" and whisper to whoever wants to listen to them that the price is subject to bargaining. At a given moment, they put forth the demand that "infiltration" should be stopped. Then they demand "a freezing of military operations" in the South or that these operations should be kept at their present level. And so on and so forth. Recently, through the newly-appointed Defence Secretary, Clark Clifford, they let it be understood that they would agree to supplies being sent to the South at an ordinary level. The oriented commentaries that followed presented this new condition as a major concession on the part of the United States with a view to entering into talks with the D.R.V.N.

THE GROUND CUT FROM UNDER AMERICAN FEET

AS it was presented, the San Antonio formula was intended by the Americans to be a reply to the statement made by D.R.V.N. Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh on January 28, 1967, which clearly showed the path leading to talks between the D.R.V.N. and the U.S.A. The American leaders, however, refused to follow this path. While continuing their "escalation," they gave a distorted interpretation of the statement by the D. R. V. N. Foreign Minister and, thanks to their gigantic propaganda machine, tried to pass themselves off as "angels of peace," full of good will and ready to stop the bombing as soon as they could be sure of "prompt and meaningful" talks. The second part of the San Antonio formula is often deliberately slurred over, in order to get the favour of public opinion.

The December 29, 1967 speech of the D.R.V.N. Foreign Minister, the interview he granted on February 8, 1968, and the clarifications given by Mr. Mai Van Bo in Paris on January 16, 1968, have cut the ground from under Washington's feet. As a result, the first part of the San Antonio formula has lost all its propaganda value. What with the confusion caused by the offensive launched by the revolutionary forces in South Viet Nam and the embarrassment caused by the statements of the D.R.V.N. government, the American leaders have found themselves in a truly uncomfortable situation. The only argument left to them for refusing to end the bombing is the worn-out and condemned theme of "reciprocity."

NO RANSOM FOR AGGRESSION

TO this theme clung Mr. Dean Rusk in his statement of February 14 in which, in arrogant terms, he insisted on the San Antonio formula and went so far as to demand, "in reciprocity," an end to or a reduction of the South Vietnamese people's patriotic struggle.

In other words, the American leaders still arrogate to themselves the right to exact a ransom in return for a cessation of their aggression against the D.R.V.N. They demand that our people should pay a "price" if this aggression is to stop, if the bombing and other war acts against our country are to be ended.

The position of the D.R.V.N. is clear. The United States has committed an aggression: it should put an end to it. The most brazen, the most unpardonable aggression is the one against the D.R.V.N., a socialist country, independent and sovereign. No self-respecting person could agree to enter into talks with someone who is putting a knife on his throat. The D.R.V.N. will not negotiate under the threat of bombs.

All justice-loving peoples and nations support our position. If the United States really wants peace in Viet Nam, it should, first of all, put an unconditional end to its bombing and other war acts against the D.R.V.N.

But the most recent declarations and acts of the American leaders prove their intention to go deeper into the tunnel with no end in sight of their war of aggression. With the resumption of the bombing of Hanoi and Hai Phong, they have despatched with all speed 10,500 more G.I.'s as reinforcements to South Viet Nam. To show American determination to pursue to the end their war in Viet Nam, President Johnson came in person to exhort these troops at their departure and declared that the number of American troops in Viet Nam would be raised above the ceiling of 525,000. All this, coupled with their demand of "reciprocity" reaffirmed in the "San Antonio formula," means only one thing: the American imperialists are bent on subduing the Vietnamese people by force of arms and refuse any political settlement on the basis of recognition of the Vietnamese people's national rights.

The Vietnamese people are resolved to conquer those rights by dint of struggle. For them, "nothing is more precious than independence and freedom." As shown in recent developments in South Viet Nam, the continuation of aggression will bring the Americans nothing but heavier defeats. The American leaders are fully responsible for the consequence of their obstinacy.

HUONG NAM

TOTAL BANKRUPTCY OF U.S. STRATEGY AND POLICIES IN U.S. "LOCAL WAR" OF AGGRESSION IN SOUTH VIET NAM

AN extraordinary enlarged session of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, *Giai Phong Press Agency* reported, was held on Feb. 11 and 12 under the chairmanship of Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the Front C.C. The session has issued a communique on the situation in South Viet Nam since the Front gave orders for a big offensive. The session has drawn necessary conclusions and discussed the immediate tasks of the Front. The session has paid tribute to the valiant fighting spirit of the patriotic armed forces and people, welcomed the emergence of the Front of Alliance of National Forces for Independence, Democracy and Peace and other patriotic organizations of the people, and acknowledged the meritorious deeds of the patriotic officers and men as well as units of the puppet army and personnel of the puppet administration who have become aware of the trend of events and broken away from the enemy and returned to the people.

The Communique said: "The extraordinary enlarged session of the Front Central Committee noted that within the short period between Jan. 30 and Feb. 10, 1968, in response to the orders of the Front, the people and their Liberation Armed Forces on all battlefronts, from Quang Tri to Ca Mau, launched simultaneous and powerful attacks and rose up everywhere and have won great and all-round successes so far unknown in the great patriotic war to liberate South Viet Nam from the ruthless rule of the U.S. imperialists and the puppet administration.

"Our army and people have mounted well co-ordinated attacks on all major cities and towns, and on nearly all the provincial capitals, district towns, military sectors and subsectors, military bases and airfields of the enemy as well as many storage complexes of the U.S. and its puppets. We have struck at their last refuges, wiping out many U.S. troops, put out of action or disbanded an important part of the puppet army including many regiment- or battalion-sized units, annihilating many high-ranking organs and command staffs, destroyed millions of tons of armaments and war materials, cut off and paralysed the strategic communication lines of the enemy, forced the enemy to surrender or withdraw from a series of posts and strongholds, taken prisoner many U.S. and puppet officers and troops, smashed the grass root puppet administration organs, upset and crippled the puppet apparatus at the central level.

"Our people from all walks of life in the towns and cities and in the rural areas still under the temporary control of the enemy with an avalanche-like revolutionary impetus, have risen up at one and the same time to break the rule of the enemy, rounded up and wiped out the cruel thugs, liberated many vast rural areas, many district towns and townships, set up the revolutionary power of the people, foiled U.S. "pacification" program, occupied or held under control many towns and townships, and victoriously fought back enemy counter-attacks, winning many great victories.

"In the revolutionary storms, our people have increased their political and armed forces by leaps and bounds. Millions of people in the towns and cities and in the rural areas still under the temporary control of the enemy, irrespective of sex, age, religious belief and nationality, have organized themselves into revolutionary contingents and risen up like one man. Tens of thousands of youths enthusiastically joined the revolutionary army to fight the aggressors and their henchmen for national salvation.

"The Front of Alliance of National Forces for Independance, Democracy and Peace has come into being and is operating in the major towns. Together with other patriotic organizations it is assuming the glorious task toward the nation. The front of unity of the entire people against U.S. aggression, for national salvation has become firmer and broader than ever.

"The whole world is keenly watching the fight of our people. The whole progressive mankind is warmly acclaiming our early spring resounding victories and is encouraging us to rush forward and win complete victory."

On the significance of the recent great victories, the Communique said: "Once again these victories prove the full correctness of our political and military lines as well as our direction and policies. They are the result of a firm and creative leadership which attaches importance to both the military and political struggles, both the rural and urban areas. They demonstrate the matchless strength of people's war which has reached a high level. They spell out the irremediable bankruptcy of the whole strategy and policies of U.S. imperialism in its 'local war' of aggression designed to put the yoke of neo-colonialism on our people. They reveal to the whole world the utter rottenness and irremediable disintegration and collapse of the puppet administration and army created by U.S. imperialism.

"They constitute a heavy blow at the aggressive design of the U.S. imperialists and have led to speedy and important changes in the present balance of forces, creating a new situation very favourable for our people and laying a very solid basis for our eventual complete victory."

PARTIAL BALANCE-SHEET OF GENERAL OFFENSIVE IN VARIOUS REGIONS OF SOUTH VIET NAM

CENTRAL TRUNG BO *(Jan. 31—Feb. 8, 1968)*

— **10 Cities and Provincial Towns, 27 District Towns and Townships Attacked.**

— **Nearly 30,000 Enemy Troops Killed, Wounded or Captured; Over 50,000 Puppet Troops Disbanded.**

— **Over 800 Aircraft, 150 Heavy Guns, More than 1,000 Vehicles Destroyed.**

— **Wide Areas Around Cities and Provincial Towns Placed under People's Control.**

SOUTHERN TRUNG BO *(Jan. 31—Feb. 6, 1968)*

— **Offensive and Uprisings in Da Lat City and Phan Thiet Provincial Capital.**

— **Vast Areas Placed under People's Control.**

— **Nearly 4,000 Enemy Troops Killed or Wounded, 30 Planes and Helicopters Downed or Damaged.**

THE second Communique of the Command of the People's Liberation Armed Forces in Central Trung Bo announced that up to Feb. 8, 1968, the P.L.A.F. and people in Central Trung Bo had attacked the enemy in 10 cities and towns, 27 district towns and townships, fought more than 400 engagements, not counting thousands of actions fought by the guerillas, killing, wounding or capturing nearly 30,000 enemy troops, one-fourth of them American and Pak Jung Hi troops, and causing the disbandment of more than 50,000 puppet troops. The enemy units entirely wiped out or suffering heavy losses included one U.S. operational command, 2 headquarters of puppet army corps, 3 division headquarters including the headquarters of the *Americal* Division, 9 regimental headquarters including 2 regimental headquarters of Pak Jung Hi mercenaries, one special sector, 9 military sectors, 9 infantry battalions, 2 armoured units, and 38 companies including 8 American and Pak Jung Hi companies. Our armed forces and people also attacked 6 provincial administrative offices, 4 police stations, 4 radio stations and 6 jails as a result of which more than 4,000 people detained by the enemy were released.

The P.L.A.F. in Central Trung Bo also many times raided 19 airfields, 35 artillery sites, 14 truck parks and 15 important supply bases of the U.S. and its puppets, inflicting on them heavy losses in technical equipment and war means including more than 800 aircraft among them over 200 jet planes, 150 artillery pieces of various calibres, over 1,000 military vehicles among them 350 armoured cars. Our armed forces and people also damaged an 8,000-ton ship, 8 missile-launching ramps, destroyed tens of thousands of tons of bombs and ammunition and burnt down millions of litres of petrol. Our armed forces and people cut off all the strategic communication lines of the enemy such as Highways 1, 14, 18, 19 and 21, controlled key enemy positions on communication axes such as the Hai Van, Cu Mong, Ca and Mang Giang defiles, and blew up more than 50 bridges.

In concerted actions with the People's Liberation Armed Forces, tens of thousands of urban people in the region broke the enemy's control, overthrew the puppet administration and won back the right to be masters of their destiny. The people in Da Nang city together with the revolutionary armed forces attacked and seized the headquarters of the First puppet Army Corps, assaulted the key military and administrative organs of the U.S.-puppet clique, tracked down cruel agents of the enemy, succeeded in persuading many puppet troops to cross over to the revolutionary side and swell the ranks of the armed and political forces of the revolution.

In the cities and provincial capitals of Hoi An, Tam Ky, Quang Ngai, Quy Nhon, Ban Me Thuot, Nha Trang and other towns, tens of thousands of people came out to round up the enemy's notorious agents, breaking his grip and helped the P.L.A.F. to wipe out the enemy.

In co-ordination with the urban people, the rural people in enemy-controlled areas also rose up. Armed with sticks and spears, they hunted down wicked thugs and "militiamen" of the enemy, destroyed many posts and seized weapons from the enemy to arm themselves. The liberated areas in the countryside expanded rapidly.

In the neighbouring areas of the cities and towns alone, over 300,000 people took part in the uprising, completely smashing the puppet administration in the villages and hamlets. They quickly strengthened their political and armed forces and set up the revolutionary power. Within 5 days, the people in Quang Ngai province liberated an area nearly 40km in length along Highway 1. Meanwhile, in Tuy Phuoc district, Binh Dinh province, a series of more hamlets and villages were freed from the enemy's grip. Around the cities and provincial capitals of Da Nang, Hoi An, Tam Ky, Tuy Hoa, Nha Trang and Ban Me Thuot, large areas were freed.

The puppet military and administrative apparatus in Central Trung Bo has thus been seriously crippled. According to initial figures, over 50,000 puppet troops in the region were disbanded. The 45th puppet Regiment in Ban Me Thuot province, the 3rd Armoured Unit in Gia Lai province, a battalion of the 51st Regiment in Quang Nam province and a battalion of "regional army" in Binh Dinh province disintegrated. Many units of puppet troops revolted, wiped out cruel enemy agents and joined in the revolutionary armed forces' fight against U.S. aggression, for national salvation. Within 5 days in Quang Ngai province, dozens of puppet companies and platoons rose up and crossed over to the people's side, bringing all their arms with them.

Many patriotic organizations hostile to the U.S. and Thieu-Ky clique have been set up in the puppet army such as the League of Peace-Loving and Patriotic Buddhist Army-men in Central Trung Bo, the Association of Patriotic Troops in Quang Nam and Da Nang provinces, the Group of Insurgent Troops in Quang Ngai, the Break-Away Western High Plateaux National Minority Troops from the Saigon Army, etc...

ACCORDING to a communique of the P.L.A.F. of Southern Trung Bo from Jan. 31 night to Feb. 2, 1968 the local armed forces and people killed or wounded nearly 4,000 enemy troops (including 500 U. S. and satellite troops), wiped out one puppet regiment's Command Post, 7 enemy companies (including 3 U.S. ones), captured or destroyed many puppet key offices at provincial level and many military bases in Da Lat city and Phan Thiet township, overran tens of posts, disbanded tens of thousands of puppet armymen, shot down or destroyed 30 aircraft, destroyed or damaged 36 armoured cars and cut off many important strategic communication lines.

A FIRM BASIS FOR FINAL VICTORY

Following the great victories recorded in the previous years, within only a short period in the recent early Spring days, the South Viet Nam armed forces and people won unprecedented successes in their resistance war against U.S. aggression, for national salvation. These are a tremendous, military and political achievement which constitutes a firm basis for the South Viet Nam armed forces and people's eventual final victory.

This is the gist of an analysis by military commentator Chien Thang, published in the army paper Quan Doi Nhan Dan, *under the headline:*

The Great and All-Round Victories of the South Viet Nam Armed Forces and People in the Early Days of Spring Constitute a Firm Basis for Their Final Victory.

Follows the full text of the commentary.— Ed.

IN their protracted fight against the U.S. aggressors, for national salvation, the South Vietnamese people have repeatedly won big victories. They have:

— Carried out a concerted uprising, destroying the "strategic hamlet" network, shattering the foundation of the Ngo Dinh Diem fascist and dictatorial regime;

— Defeated the strategy of "special war" with the use of 500,000 puppet troops under the command of 30,000 U.S. "advisors";

— Fought off two "strategic dry-season counter-offensives," carrying the day over 1.2 million U.S., puppet and satellite troops in a very important stage of the U.S. imperialists' "local war" strategy.

Following the above great victories, within only a short period in the recent early days of Spring, the South Viet Nam armed forces and people achieved successes never known before in their resistance war against U.S. aggression, for national salvation. This is a tremendous military and political victory which constitutes a firm basis for the South Viet Nam armed forces and people's final victory.

I. — THE SOUTH VIET NAM ARMED FORCES AND PEOPLE HAVE WIPED OUT AND CAUSED THE DISINTEGRATION OF A BIG ENEMY MILITARY FORCE, UPSET ADVERSE STRATEGIC POSITION, SHAKEN TO ITS FOUNDATIONS THE PROP OF NEO-COLONIALISM, DEALING A HARD BLOW AT THE U.S. AGGRESSIVE WILL

1. The South Viet Nam Armed Forces and People Have Wiped Out and Caused the Disbandment of a Big Part of the Enemy's Manpower.

Within a short time in the early days of Spring, the South Viet Nam armed forces and people put out of action in their simultaneous attacks and concerted uprisings nearly 300,000 U.S., puppet and satellite troops. This was a big part of the enemy's manpower, which includes mobile units, military police units, and important command organs of the U.S. and puppets.

Almost all the U.S., puppet and satellite forces wiped out over recent days were stationed right in heavily defended towns and cities, bases and strongholds, where enemy troops were concentrated in very large numbers, with up-to-date war means at their disposal. To wipe out a big and important part of the enemy's manpower right in the places where they were at their strongest, is a military victory of new significance marking a new development of the South Viet Nam revolutionary war situation.

Another feature is that within a short period, the South Viet Nam armed forces and people caused the disintegration of hundreds of thousands of puppet troops. The desertion and breaking-up movement has spread from the militia and "civil guard" units to the regular forces.

The number of puppet troops disbanded in the early days of this Spring more than trebled compared with 1965 when the U.S. "special war" strategy went bankrupt.

This spelled out a serious breakdown in organization, and an alarming decline of the puppet troops' morale heralding the inevitable and complete collapse of all this mercenary force.

In the current drive, the armed forces and people have wiped out and disintegrated a big part of the enemy's manpower, weakened the American troops and triggered off the collapse of the puppet army. At the same time, they have been actively maintaining and developing their forces. Thus the significance of their victories is all the greater.

2. The South Viet Nam Armed Forces and People Have Destroyed a Huge Quantity of U.S. War Materials.

Over the recent early Spring days, the South Viet Nam armed forces and people have attacked a series of airfields, logistical bases, storages, and strategic reserve depots; destroyed over 1,000 aircraft, several thousand military vehicles, hundreds of artillery pieces, captured tens of thousands of firearms, seized or destroyed millions of tons of bombs and shells, fuel and war means of different kinds.

This was a hammer blow dealt at the most important material build-up of the U.S. aggressive war. The American troops' mobility and fighting power on the South Viet Nam battlefield rely on modern technical equipment: aircraft, vehicles, artillery, and a huge amount of bombs, shells, fuel, etc. By attacking the airfields, logistical bases, storage areas, and destroying many aircraft, military vehicles and a huge quantity of bombs, shells and fuel, the South Viet Nam armed forces and people have considerably emasculated the American troops' strong point and reduced their fighting power and mobility. They have produced a big vacuum in the stocks of material resources of the U.S. war and widened the big gap in the U.S. troops' morale.

The destruction of the enemy's war means and the attacks on communication lines have caused to the U.S. serious difficulties in transport, supply, rescue and reinforcement. These difficulties grow even greater when the U.S. increase its troop strength in South Viet Nam. *Reuter* on February 17, 1968 disclosed that the U.S. 1st Air Mobile Cavalry Division, recently moved to Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces, is facing a "crisis" and an alarming "logistics shortage." Right at the division's headquarters, the number of artillery pieces has been cut down, food reserves are available for 3 days only— 2 days below the minimum required. As for fuel, though the division's daily consumption runs to about 115,000 gallons, it happens to have at times only 700 gallons, at its disposal.

In the resistance war against the U.S. aggressors in South Viet Nam the destruction of the material war build-up is of tremendous importance, as it directly reduces the enemy's fighting power on the battlefield.

3. The South Viet Nam Armed Forces and People Have Shattered the U.S. and Puppet's Grip in Almost all Rural Areas and Dislocated, Paralysed the Saigon Administrative Set-Up.

Within a few days, the South Viet Nam armed forces and people rose up with equal vigour everywhere and launched simultaneous attacks on the puppet administrative set-up in all areas and at all levels, and shattered the U.S. and puppets' grip in almost all the rural areas under the enemy's temporary control. They have destroyed the network of "strategic hamlets," punished the enemy's die-hard cruel agents and secret agents, wiped out or disbanded "pacification" and militia teams, levelled a series of posts and liberated a vast rural area.

The puppet administrative apparatus at district, provincial and central levels, has been dealt hammer blows, dislocated or paralysed.

The powerful uprisings and attacks of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people have thrown light on the bitter helplessness and isolation of the Saigon puppet regime — stooge of the U.S. — and smashed this puppet administration's political influence in those areas still under its control.

The destruction and disintegration of a sizeable chunk of the puppet army, the collapse of the enemy's repressive machinery in the countryside, and the critical state of the Saigon puppet administration are rocking the very foundation of the pillars of U.S. neo-colonialism. All this constitutes a military victory and also a very important political success of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people.

4. The South Viet Nam Armed Forces and People Have Driven the Enemy Deeper into Their Defensive Position and Upset Their Strategic Plans.

In their war of aggression against South Viet Nam, the U.S. aggressors have always relied on the cities, their big bases, and key communication lines as springboards for both the offensive and the defensive.

After the failure of the second dry season "strategic counter-offensive" (1966-1967) which culminated in Operation *Junction City*, the U.S. strategic position became more passive and awkward.

The deployment of U.S. forces was chiefly aimed at setting up strong defence perimeters around the cities and towns, military bases and key communication lines; the "pacification" program with key areas was first of all meant to defend the military and political centres of the U.S.-puppets; and "search and destroy" operations were intended to assist the "pacification" and at the same time to take pressure off the urban areas. Now, by spearheading their simultaneous attacks and widespread uprisings against the enemy right in the towns and cities, in their base camps, and on traffic axes, the South Viet Nam armed forces have driven the enemy deeper into the defensive, disrupted their troops deployment, and upset their strategic plans.

Not long ago, the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys had indeed to cope with daily attacks on the towns, still their main frontlines were in the mountain areas and the plains. This accounted for most of the "search and destroy" and "pacification" operations in these regions, especially around the towns. Now, the U.S. aggressors have to draw back to deal with the attacks mounted right inside the towns, therefore they are unable to carry on their "two-pronged" strategy.

By driving the enemy deeper into the defensive and upsetting their strategic plans, the South Viet Nam armed forces and people have won a victory of high strategic significance, which marks a new development in the war situation, very favourable to our people's struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

5. The South Viet Nam Armed Forces and People Have Dealt a Heavy Blow at the Aggressive Design of the U.S.

The greatest significance of the recent victories of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people lies in the fact that these have further impaired the morale of U.S. and puppet troops, and struck a heavy blow at the aggressive design of the U.S. aggressors.

In face of their heavy defeats and the rapid collapse of the puppet army and administration, the morale of U.S. troops is sinking lower, while that of the puppet army and administration is getting worse. The influence and position of the Washington rulers are dwindling markedly, and their ranks are torn by bitter internal dissensions. The political isolation of the U.S. in the world has reached a new high. American opinion has admitted that the U.S. has no true ally in the world now.

The U.S. ruling circles are now bewildered and confused, having lost confidence in their future. When they first sent U.S. troops to South Viet Nam for a "local war" of aggression, they were cock-sure that they could win. After the defeat of their first two "dry-season counter-offensives," they tried to save their faces, acknowledging that they were neither winning nor losing.

Now they have to admit that they are witnessing the failure of a military policy.

A U.S. ambassador (Reischauer) has remarked that it is time for the U.S. to realize that "we have lost this war."

The U.S. aggressors, however, remain very stubborn, for such is the immutable nature of imperialism. Nevertheless, the contradiction between their aggressive design and their ability to achieve it is more acute than ever. A London paper recently likened the huge U.S. expeditionary army in Viet Nam to a shored whale. Indeed, notwithstanding the 500,000 G.I.'s they have on the battlefield, the U.S. aggressors have shown their impotence and inability to stave off defeats. Their total defeat is already in sight. Johnson recently declared that the U.S. would not give up. This boast, while giving yet another proof of the obdurate nature of the U.S. aggressors, is an acknowledgement of the latter's losing posture.

II. — THE RECENT GREAT AND ALL-ROUND VICTORIES HAVE STEPPED UP SOUTH VIET NAM'S REVOLUTION TO A NEW HIGH

1. The South Viet Nam Armed Forces and People Have Controlled Many Urban Areas and Liberated Vast Areas in the Countryside.

Apart from wiping out a big part of the enemy's military and political forces, the South Viet Nam people have gained control of many urban areas, and liberated vast areas in the countryside, further asserting their power.

The people in most of the cities, provincial capitals and towns, strongly inspired, have risen up with equal vigour, actively co-ordinating their actions with the revolutionary armed forces in attacking the enemy. The armed forces and people in many cities and provincial capitals have fought tirelessly and successfully maintained their control. People's Revolutionary Committees have been set up in Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces and Hue city. The armed forces and people in Saigon have fought valiantly to maintain their control, and attacked the enemy without let-up. The people in the Mekong Delta have maintained and expanded their control over large parts of many provincial capitals and towns.

From the northernmost Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces down to Ca Mau province in the south, liberated rural areas are widening quickly, forming a vast region covering most of South Viet Nam countryside. The South Viet Nam revolution is broadening vigorously and steadily its immediate rear, thus securing for itself an inexhaustible manpower and material potential. The material foundations and objective conditions for the development of the revolutionary forces have thus greatly increased. The revolutionary armed forces have gained a firmer foothold in the countryside, and even in many urban areas.

The new development of the people's control in South Viet Nam is one of the big results of the recent simultaneous attacks and widespread uprisings. It has created a firmer basis for South Viet Nam's revolution, and stepped up it to a new high.

2. By Striking Hard at the Enemy in Urban, Rural and Mountain Areas, the South Viet Nam Armed Forces and People Have Pushed Their Revolution into a New Stage of Development.

Important changes have taken place in the war situation in South Viet Nam. The South Viet Nam armed forces and people have fought hard on all battle-fronts, assaulting the enemy in the rural and mountain areas and right in the towns and cities.

The revolutionary movement in the South Viet Nam urban areas has made a new stride forward: the townsfolk are attacking the enemy in all fields. The people's war has erupted right in the towns and cities. The immediate rear base of the enemy, which they always believed secure, has become a frontline wherever fiercer fighting often takes place. The nerve centre of the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen has become a battlefield, constantly besieged and threatened by the revolutionary forces and continually in a state of confusion.

A big change has occurred in the military positions of the two sides within a short time as a result of the simultaneous attacks and widespread uprisings of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people. The offensive position of the South Viet Nam revolution has been further stepped up; the U.S. and puppet troops have been driven back deep into the defensive in all parts of South Viet Nam. Following are the main features of the situation:

a) *On the revolutionary side*: The most outstanding feature of the situation is that the South Viet Nam armed forces and people are now in a position, and have enough experiences, to launch simultaneous, continuous large-scale and highly effective attacks.

Fierce attacks have been mounted throughout South Viet Nam, from the northernmost provinces of Quang Tri and Thua Thien to Ninh Thuan, Binh Thuan and Lam Dong provinces, further south, from the Western High Plateaux jungle mountain areas to the plains of Nam Bo (covering the Mekong Delta and nearby provinces—*Ed.*). Both the military and political forces and all the three kinds of armed forces (regular, regional and guerilla) have been engaged in offensives in the towns, countryside and jungle mountain areas.

The South Viet Nam revolutionary forces are now able to maintain and extend their sway over the battlefield; they have been continually marching forward, bringing into full play their military gains and recording new victories.

On all battlefields and everywhere in South Viet Nam, the people are fighting while increasing the revolutionary ranks and quickly developing their political and military forces. The longer they fight, the greater their endurance and fitness.

b) *On the enemy's side*: The striking feature is that they have fallen into a complete defensive position. Reeling under unexpected blows, caught off guard, they could not react in time in face of the swift drive and murderous combat methods of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people. Their forces have seriously weakened. Their morale is sinking. The disposition of their forces has been upset. No matter how many more troops and war means they may pour in, the U.S. aggressors definitely cannot patch up the crumbling castle of colonialism, nor stabilize their growingly critical situation.

3. The South Viet Nam Revolutionary Forces Are Developing Very Rapidly in Both the Political and Military Fields, in Both Number and Quality.

In the new advances of the high revolutionary tide, the political forces of the South Viet Nam revolution have expanded rapidly in both the rural and urban areas. Millions of people in the cities and areas still under the enemy's

(Continued page 6)

G.I.'s and puppet troops routed at Saigon National Stadium, Feb. 6

P.L.A.F. fighters

WORLD PEOPLES' INDIGNATION AT U.S. BOMBING OF SOUTH VIET NAM TOWNS AND CITIES

Sustaining repeated heavy setbacks in South Viet Nam, the U.S. imperialists and their quislings are frenziedly perpetrating the most barbarous crimes against the South Vietnamese townsfolk—bombing, shelling and spraying of toxic gases on populous areas—, thus causing many casualties among the civilians, destroying many houses of the people, demolishing even ancient architectural monuments and cultural vestiges.

On Feb. 5, 1968, the Foreign Ministry of the D.R.V.N. issued a declaration condemning these new crimes of the American imperialists. Those crimes have triggered off a wave of indignation not only among the Vietnamese people but also among the people throughout the world.—Ed.

PRAVDA (U.S.S.R.) wrote on Feb. 16 "Infuriated by the victory of the South Vietnamese patriots, the aggressors are indulging in atrocities against the Vietnamese civilians. Over the past few days, the U.S. air force including B.52 heavy bombers, have shelled many South Vietnamese towns and cities and their outskirts; Saigon, Hue and Ben Tre in paticular have suffered great damage.

"Their savagery against South Viet Nam's townsfolk has brought on the U.S. militarists an indelible stain of ignominy. Their acts have also testified to their inability to suppress a nation that has risen up to defend its right to be master of its own land. Once again, they have thrown light on the utter isolation of the aggressors in that country."

THE Foreign Ministry of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea on Feb. 10 issued a statement, pointing out, "Sustaining repeated serious setbacks as a result of crushing blows from the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam, the U.S. imperialists are perpetrating even more inhuman massacres. They have resorted to wanton air raids, killed and wounded a large number of civilians. They have destroyed many houses, and sprayed poison gas on the populous quarters of Saigon – Cho Lon and many other towns. They are scheming to bring to trial and sentence to death many patriots in Saigon – Cho Lon and other cities in South Viet Nam. These barbarities of the U.S. imperialists are nothing but monstrous crimes against the Vietnamese people and, at the same time, an open challenge to the world people who oppose the U.S. imperialists' war of aggression in Viet Nam, and a most blatant infringement of the norms of international law.

"The government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Korean people are most indignant at, and strongly condemn, the crimes perpetrated by U.S. imperialists against the Vietnamese people."

ON Feb. 13, 1968, the Foreign Ministry of the G.D.R. issued a statement warmly welcoming the big and all-sided victories of the South Vietnamese people and sternly condemning the savage acts of aggression of the U.S. imperialists. The statement stressed, "The Foreign Ministry of the G.D.R. strongly condemns the savage crimes of the Johnson administration which grossly trampled underfoot international law and ethics. It entirely supports the Feb. 5, 1968 statement of the D.R.V.N. Foreign Ministry condemning the U.S. bombings of Saigon and other towns in South Viet Nam. The military and political successes of the South Vietnamese people have clearly shown to the Johnson administration that the best and most logical course left to them is to end their war of aggression."

IN an editorial in *l'Humanité*, Waldeck Rochet wrote, "The U.S. aggressors avenge their defeat by bombing and burning such towns as Ben Tre, Hue and Saigon. But these new crimes only trigger off an ever stiffer resistance from the Vietnamese people."

CALLING at the South Viet Nam N.F.L. Permanent Mission in Moscow on Feb. 13 to congratulate it on the resounding spring victories of the South Vietnamese people, Edmund Jerpesson, Chairman of the Danish Communist Party, strongly condemned the U.S. imperialists' recent criminal bombings, rocketing and spraying of toxic gases on populous urban areas of South Viet Nam.

THE Secretariat of the International Federation of Democratic Women made the following appeal to women in the world: "The I.F.D.W. insistently call on women's organizations and all women in the world to take concrete action to condemn and to check at once the U.S. imperialists' criminal acts and to demand that the U.S. government respect the legitimate aspirations of the South Vietnamese people."

ON the morning of Feb. 14, 1968, the Algerian Committee of Investigation on U.S. War Crimes in Viet Nam made public a statement "strongly condemning the recent crimes of the U.S. government against the South Vietnamese people in Saigon, Hue, My Tho etc..."

The statement also pointed out that the U.S. imperialists had even made use of poison gases against the townsfolk. It demanded that the U.S. government put an end forthwith these criminal actions.

IN a message sent to the South Viet Nam Union of Women for Liberation on Feb. 11, welcoming the spring victories of the South Vietnamese people, the French Women's Federation condemned the new crimes of the U.S. imperialists, saying, "French women are always on the side of Vietnamese women and patriotic forces who have risen up in a powerful and invincible popular upsurge against the U.S. aggressors, for an independent, democratic, free and prosperous Viet Nam.

"We denounce and strongly protest against the U.S. armed forces' massacre of the civilian population with bombs and toxic gases. We shall do our utmost to stop the new crimes of the U.S. imperialists and support the just struggle of the heroic Vietnamese people."

FOR THE SAKE...

(Continued from page 2)

the intellectuals intensify their action in favour of Viet Nam, for the sake of the Vietnamese people's happiness and the world intelligentsia's honour.

We express our deep admiration for, and our unshakable solidarity with, our brotherly Vietnamese intellectuals who valiantly take part in the heroic struggle of their people against our common enemy—American imperialism—, and are carrying on, while fighting, their cultural scientific and esthetic activities and setting a bright example, as revolutionary intellectuals, in our epoch.

We express to the heroic Vietnamese people our gratitude for what they have done in their own interests and in the interests of mankind, and for having accepted boundless sacrifices in an exemplary spirit of internationalism.

Always standing on the side of the Vietnamese people in this great struggle to defend the nations and man, we exert utmost efforts to be equal to the great example the Vietnamese people have given us.

The great and heroic Vietnamese people will win!

Mankind will win!

Man's culture and civilization will defeat the contemporary barbarity of U.S. imperialism!

A Firm Basis...

(Continued from page 5)

control, composed of workers, peasants, other working people and all strata of other patriotic people, regardless of classes, political affiliations, religious beliefs and political tendencies, have risen up and joined the revolution with a very high mettle, venting on the U.S. aggressors and their puppets their hatred that had been accumulated for over a decade.

Puppet administrative personnel and puppet troops have also risen up individually or by whole units in many places, mutinied and rallied in patriotic organizations, set up insurgent armed units, and joined the revolutionary forces in the struggle to save their country and their homes.

Many newly set up patriotic political organizations and forces are taking part in this fight. The front of nation-wide union against the U.S. aggressors is quickly broadening.

The South Viet Nam revolutionary armed forces are developing by leaps and bounds, their numbers growing adequately and their quality substantially. Developing in the political struggle and among the political forces of the people and growing up in the revolutionary struggle, the revolutionary armed forces have further swelled their ranks. New militia and guerilla units have been formed everywhere in the freshly liberated rural areas. Homeguard units, the armed forces of the cities have been set up. They are fighting courageously to wipe out the enemy and defend the gains of the revolution right in the streets.

All the three kinds of people's armed forces have been expanding at a balanced rate and their fighting capacity has taken a new step forward. The South Viet Nam P.L.A.F., who fight well in the mountain areas and in the plains, are fighting equally well in the towns, with many original combat methods. They can now dominate the battlefield for many days, attack the enemy both in the day-time and at night. They can fight with equal success enemy reinforcements and enemy strongholds. The P.L.A.F.'s strategic leadership, their ability to co-ordinate large-scale actions, and to fight enduringly, and their experience, have been improved markedly. Their strategic efficiency, operational effects and combat effectiveness are also much higher.

With the opening of many new battlefields, and the emergence of numerous new forces and many more fighting methods, the South Viet Nam armed forces and people will certainly win still greater victories.

and thrown them into an intricate and dangerous fighting position, thus tipping the balance of forces in favour of the people, to the detriment of the enemy.

These very big victories of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people have greatly increased the influence of the revolution.

They have brought into bolder relief the just character of the South Viet Nam people's fight against U.S. aggression, for national salvation; and proved that the political, military, moral and material might of South Viet Nam's revolution is invincible. They have further enhanced the South Viet Nam people's confidence in the correct line of the N.F.L. as well as in their own strength, and inspired them to rise up still more resolutely in the entire people's front of unity against U.S. aggression, and fight with determination for the independence and freedom of the Fatherland.

The South Viet Nam revolution has attained a new height. The people's war in South Viet Nam has entered a new stage. The correctness and creativeness of the strategy and tactics of the great revolutionary war of the South Viet Nam people are being brought into fullest play. The road of the Vietnamese people to final victory is quite clear. President Ho Chi Minh has said:

"These early spring victories of the armed forces and people of the South have brought our entire people's resistance against American aggression, for national salvation, to a new situation very favourable to us! Nothing can save the American aggressors and their valets from utter collapse!

"The closer we get to victory, the more difficulties and hardships we shall have to cope with. The enemy, like a cornered wild beast, will fling himself about frantically; our armed forces and people must tighten their ranks even more, fight perseveringly, strike hard and repeated blows, record still bigger successes!"

In response to the President's appeal, our armed forces and people, carried forward by the impetus of their fresh victories, are advancing, fearless of sacrifices and hardships, and attacking the enemy repeatedly, will surely bring their struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation to complete victory.

THE RECENT GREAT AND ALL-ROUND VICTORIES ARE A FIRM BASIS FOR COMPLETE VICTORY

THE tremendous victories in these first days of Spring have been brought about by the ardent patriotism of the heroic South Viet Nam armed forces and people, their deep hatred for the enemy, their unity, their persevering, courageous and staunch struggle. They are also the outcome of the sound political and military lines of the South Viet Nam N.F.L., and the creative strategy and tactics of people's war. They are the natural results of a process of accumulation and development of the all-round revolutionary forces in the countryside and urban areas, the continuation and logical development of the revolutionary process on the basis of big victories recorded in the past.

They are all the more significant as they are won at a time when the U.S. aggressors are making their biggest efforts, after having experienced three years of fighting, and when the war is entering its fiercest stage.

They are very solid achievements because they have generated a new strength, and brought about a new war situation. What is more, they have seriously weakened the enemy's forces

IN THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS *

THE WHOLE WORLD WARMLY WELCOMES THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE P.L.A.F. VICTORIOUS OFFENSIVE

"NO power can subdue the Vietnamese people. Washington cannot solve the Viet Nam problem by war. The more the American imperialists extend the war, the more heavy losses they suffer. Such conclusions can be drawn from the recent general offensive by patriotic forces on towns and U.S. bases in South Viet Nam."

New Times
USSR-Feb. 9
(re-translated from the French)

"THE victories of the South Vietnamese people once again eloquently prove that in spite of all humar and material resources poured into the war of aggression, the imperialists can never subdue a people who are determined to reconquer national independence, freedom and democratic rights."

Editorial of **Akshata**
Japan-Feb. 4

"TO appraise the extent of American military defeats one should not above all forget the character of the Viet Nam war. It is not a "conventional" war, a war of position. The question for the Vietnamese combatants is not at all to hold at any price such or such city, such or such hill, but to give battle to the enemy wherever the latter are in a state of inferiority.

"In such a war, victory belongs to those who possess the initiative. The Americans have henceforth completely lost the initiative."

L'Humanité
France-Feb. 9

"THE so-called government of Thieu-Ky exists only in name. Those victories (of the P.L.A.F.—*Ed.*) prove that it is completely rotten and does not enjoy any support from the population. Moreover, it is being undermined from within for many people are going over to the South Viet Nam N.F.L."

El Moudjahib
Algeria - Feb. 6

"THE American imperialists have been driven into a blind alley. The victorious armed forces of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. firmly hold the initiative in every theatre. The U.S.A. will be completely defeated in Viet Nam."

Le Nationaliste
Tanzania - Feb.2

"THE victories of the South Vietnamese people prove that people's war is the best way to fight U.S. imperialist aggression. In the end, American imperialism will be burnt to ashes in the furnace of people's war."

L'Ouvrier Congolais
Organ of the Federation of Trade Unions of the Congo (D)

"THESE victories prove that when a people rise up in a revolutionary way, no force of aggression — however powerful it may be — can crush their revolutionary will. The epic of Dien Bien Phu is being repeated in Saigon, Da Nang and other places in South Viet Nam. The U.S. defeats in South Viet Nam have encouraged the Arab peoples to do utmost efforts to defeat the U.S. imperialists."

Al Thawrah
Irak - Feb.5

* See Viet Nam Courier *from No 149 on.*

I reached the bank of the S. river—in Quynh Luu coastal district, Nghe An province—as the clock was striking twelve: the New Year was coming. Long files of heavily loaded lorries were crossing, in a two-way traffic, the pontoon bridge, which appeared after dark and disappeared before dawn.

It was pitch dark and bitterly cold. A "Shock Youth" team was busy mending the road. Most of them were women. While working they joked, laughed or sang. With the coming of Spring, good news from South Viet Nam had fired them. An urging them to work well and fight well.

American planes had turned up a few minutes ago. Bridge workers kept the traffic going while "Shock Youth" volunteers, members of the people's militia, ran to their combat posts, ready to fire their rifles at the enemy. Never had they relaxed their vigilance, even on the first day of Spring.

"For the South," they worked and fought hard. Had they not solemnly undertaken to keep the road and the bridge open to traffic under any circumstances! By "rationalizing" their manipulation of the pontoon bridge workers could shorten by seven minutes the time spent on the assembling of the bridge. This was a sort of gain of theirs over the U.S. aggressors every day.

IN the dug-out which served as the General Post Office of H. area, the telephone was constantly ringing. "U.S. planes have dropped many numerous mines into the mouth of the river. At ebb-tide, many mines come up," P. village authorities reported. Those of B. village announced: "The two tractors for the ploughing up mines need the bridge before midnight."

Last year, on a Spring day, militiamen of B. went out in small boats to capture Yankee pilots on the sea, their planes being shot down by our A.A. units. This year, on the night of the *Tet* Festival (Lunar New Year), they achieved another exploit by building with the same boats a pontoon bridge usable by big lorries.

WESTERN OPINION

A Crumbling Policy

Walter Lippmann — *Newsweek*, Feb. 7-12

The general offensive and simultaneous uprisings which started in South Viet Nam in late January 1968 not only "hit the nail" of Washington's aggression policy in Viet Nam. They also spell the doom of American policy of aggression in Asia and the world. This is a point which has been examined in the Western press from various angles. We publish below a few press excerpts on this subject. — Ed.

OUR international financial troubles have now been capped by the domestic budget. Because it is impossible to foresee the course of the war, it is a mystifying budget. The only certain thing about it is that it marks the end of the great "war" on poverty and the promises of a "great society."

Amidst all these troubles we are facing the biggest battle of the war in Viet Nam. In this battle, General Westmoreland does not have the initiative.

... The series of setbacks would seem to indicate that the Johnson-Rusk policy in Asia is crumbling. What is crumbling is the notion that the United States can by military forces determine the order of things on the continent of Asia.

We have had plenty of warning from American soldiers and American experts not to attempt the impossible in Asia. They have told us that we cannot invade and conquer, that we cannot "contain" by surrounding the masses of Asian peasants.

... The Johnson-Rusk policy in Asia is based upon the assumption that 200 million Americans, because they have a superior technology, can lead and direct the two-thirds of the human race which inhabits the continent of Asia. It cannot be done.

... The foundations of the policy are rotten, and they were bound to crumble.

The *Pueblo* reminds us that in making the strategic mistake of engaging the bulk of our military power at one point, like Viet Nam, the response can and will break out at other points. The war is already spreading into Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Korea, perhaps it will spread to Quemoy and Matsu, perhaps to the Middle East. The Johnson-Rusk policy of "containment" is like trying to squeeze a gallon of water into a pint-size bottle...

"FOR THE SOUTH"

ONE day, I saw the leaders of V. village engaged in an animated discussion around a map spread on the ground in the yard of Co-op Party cell woman secretary Vinh. The map was covered with red crosses marking places where were to be dropped. The point was how to explode the bombs as soon as possible so that the soil could be prepared in time for the coming crop. Finally, Vinh and her comrade Toi, Hero of the people'e militia, volunteered for the dangerous task.

IN Quynh Luu district, people struggle in the ricefields for a bumper harvest and fight fierce combats on the coast and the river, Piratical U.S. planes and war ships often attack our fishing boats and capture our fishermen. They drop mines and time-bombs into the mouth of the rivers. In many coastal villages, co-op fishermen have to carry their boats over dunes to safety on the coast or dig new canals for their boats to safely reach the sea.

IN spite of round-the-clock bombings, the roads in Quynh Luu are open to traffic. Carrying out abreast production work and fighting, the people of Quynh Luu combines road maintenance with water conservancy work, extending its network of roads. A new highway for cars was inaugurated at the beginning of this year.

EVERY time when manpower is needed for building defence works, the number of volunteers in the villages surpasses that required by four times. Think that many requests to join up have been turned down by the village recruting centre.

LIKE the rest of the North Vietnamese, the entire people of Quynh Luu, young and old, are determined to defeat the U.S. aggressors in combat and production, to contribute to national salvation, to do everything "for the beloved South."

N.C.

HOW WE MENDED OUR WAYS BACK TO THE FATHERLAND

Account by a mutineer from Company of Security Troops No 604 which rose up on Feb. 5, 1968 at Rach Thien post, Cho Lon (released by Giai Phong Press Agency)

OUR post, built in a triangular area from 30 to 50 metres each side, lay on Road No.7 linking the military sub-sector in Hiep Hoa district to the military sector in Hau Nghia town, about 55km west of Saigon.

After the Jan. 31 events, we continually listened to radio, read leaflets, learned the news from the local people and listened to broadcasts by armed propaganda units about the repeated victories of the revolutionary forces. The commanders and security agents of the paratroop unit tried hard to deny what we had learned, but they were unable to conceal their own anxiety, misgivings and disappointment.

Though hailing from different places, we understood each other quite well, because, apart from the wicked thugs, we all were in the same situation. Most of us had been pressganged into the army to fight against our compatriots. Duong Van Muoi, over 40, had his father killed and his wife and children wounded by American bombs. His eldest son had been also impressed into our unit. So had the blood brothers Tran Van Trieu and Tran Van Don. For long we had been longing to leave our criminal path, which was to massacre our own people with U.S. guns. Now came the opportunity to mend our ways back to the Fatherland.

At 1.15 a.m. we went into action. Ho Van Tien fired at the cruel thugs who were gambling, killing 14 of them including sub-lieutenant Nghe, commanding the company, warrant officer Tri, deputy commander, and sergeant Hao. He also shot dead the two American advisers who were radioing for help. Meanwhile, Nguyen Van Ba and Huynh Van Yen occupied the signal centre. With their machine gun, Tran Van Trieu and Nguyen Van Hong mowed down a dozen thugs who were showing resistance. Duong Van Muoi and his son killed 4 NCOs, occupied a blockhouse near the gate and let Liberation troops in. Thus our strength was redoubled. In next to no time all the wicked thugs had been meted out the punishment they deserved. Among the puppet soldiers who laid down their arms in the first minutes was Chat who had lost his mother and sister raped by the thugs. Rach Thien post fell into our hand. Accompanied by Liberation fighters, the local inhabitants broke into the post and embraced us, overjoyed. We captured all the armament composed of 840 fire arms including 10 mortars, machine guns and tommy-guns.

Thus after one hour's battle, we now stood under the glorious flag of the N.F.L. and were allowed to go on bearing arms, this time to avenge our country and our family and fight for the independence, democracy and prosperity of the Fatherland.

HUE - *City of Beauty,* CITY OF GLORY

FOR four weeks, on the great flag-tower which dominates with all its height the ancient imperial city of Hue, the N.F.L. banner was, flapping proudly in the wind. For Johnson and Westmoreland, this "rebel" flag over the imperial palaces has become a nightmare, for it brings out in full relief the shameful failure that the Americans have just suffered in Viet Nam. Ten, twenty, fifty times, U.S. Marines, South Korean mercenaries, puppet troops have been hurled against the imperial city; ten, twenty, fifty times, they have been beaten back with bloody losses. The U.S. Command has ordered the bombardment of the city and the citaael by its air force and Seventh Fleet guns, and the use of napalm, phosphorus bombs, toxic gases against populous areas, but Hue still holds out and its streets are littered with bodies of dead Marines and smoking carcasses of tanks. The patriotic forces hold the city and the citadel, fiercely attack enemy positions on nearby hills and reinforcement columns, sink river craft sent to the rescue of decimated enemy units. U.S. battalions boasting of an advance of a few dozen yards or the conquest of a residential block, only to be vigorously repelled; U.S. soldiers noisily praising themselves for having succeeded in hoisting the Stars and Stripes on a... broken chair: that's the point to which have been reduced the Marines, those reputedly invincible warriors, after four weeks of bitter fighting. To bomb and napalm a city with no military target but dotted with invaluable historical monuments, a city which the Americans claim they have come to "protect" and "liberate": to what degree of barbarity and impotence the U.S. Command has sunk! A *Reuter* correspondent on Feb. 8 described how a Marine noncom was plundering elephant tusks from a half-destroyed house. A fine image indeed of the knights of the "free world"!

FOR four weeks, Hue has been haunting the nights of Johnson and Westmoreland with the spectre of defeat. For four weeks, the red-and-blue flag with a gold star, fluttering in the wind above the imperial palaces, has not ceased singing in all Vietnamese hearts the song of victory, heroism, and reconquered freedom. How lovingly the entire nation has been following the fight waged in each street, in each house, by veteran combatants, by youngsters who as soon as the insurrection broke out have joined the patriotic armed forces by the thousand, by old mothers serving tea and rice in the combat trenches, by pedicab drivers and sampan-women carrying food and ammunition and bearing stretcher cases under hail of shells! With what joy the entire people greet the liberation of thousands of detainees from the jails, and that of villages, wards, and streets from the grip of torturers, gendarmes and traitors! With what delight everyone hails the birth of new revolutionary forces and organizations, the Front of Alliance for National Independence, Democracy and Peace, the People's Revolutionary Committee! Hue, the marching wing of an entire people, the cynosure of the whole world, has entered history, taking place among those heroic cities which have become the pride of the nations, for having opposed to brutal arms the invincible love of freedom.

WE had loved her, of all cities. Amidst a rolling hilly expanse, the Perfume River unfolds its glittering stream. The scholar who came to compete in mandarin examinations was reluctant to leave Hue, charmed by the grace of her young girls in flowing gowns. The traveller felt himself attached to her, enchanted by the beauty of her palaces and gardens, and the refinements of her cuisine and speech. When in the evening, from the sampans gliding on the river rose the song of boatmen, one is irresistibly captivated by this city of beauty, which has neither factories nor trading centres, but exudes through all her pores an indefinable pleasant way of living.

We had loved Hue, but our love was not without some bitterness, for the emperors who reigned there had betrayed the country. The poet To Huu in his youth hated her "ancient walls, cold and frozen," and the "brocade gowns and velvet boots" of the traitorous courtiers. We impatiently waited for the day when, rid of foreign occupiers, kings and mandarins, Hue and her beauty would be returned to the people. The Hue people rose up in 1945 and swept the rulers away. And from then on, to the French then American occupiers, the people of Hue, so refined and gentle that one would hardly believe them capable of any action, put up a tenacious, indomitable resistance. For years, Ngo Dinh Can, Diem's brother, with the support of American arms, had thousands of patriots tortured and summarily executed. But Hue remained unyielding. It was from Hue that started in 1963 the wave of urban protest which overthrew the Diem regime; it was in Hue that one found the most vigorous opposition to the Thieu-Ky clique.

At present, our love for you, Hue, city of beauty, city of glory, is no longer mixed. The barbarians have destroyed your palaces and gardens, but under your ruins the Yankee aggressor is buried for ever, and the victorious people will rebuild you in more beautiful shape than ever. You will rise again more fascinating, than ever, as Johnson, Westmoreland and their gang carry on their faces the stigmas of defeat and ignominy.

NGUYEN KHAC VIEN

U.S. AGGRESSORS' CRUELTY AND COWARDICE

WITHIN three weeks U.S. bombs and shells have destroyed 80 per cent of the ancient city of Hue, known for its valuable architectural and cultural works handed down by the older generations. Tens of thousands of people have been made homeless and herded into concentration camps camouflaged as "camps of refugees from communist-held areas." Many observers did not fail to compare Hue to European cities destroyed by the Hitlerites during World War II to stamp out popular uprisings.

At the sight of the havoc wrought among the palaces and streets in Hue, an American commander said that "At this tempo, these ruins will soon be reduced to dust" (*AFP*, Feb. 16, 1968). This is precisely the foolish and cruel ambition of the U.S. aggressors.

Maddened by their setback, the U.S. imperialists rained shells and bombs on a 4 square km area in Hue city. Not including the air raids carried out by other units of the U.S. and puppet army, those conducted by U.S. Marines amounted to ten on Feb. 16 alone. Artillery of ground forces and from the Seventh Fleet wantonly pounded the city, destroying palaces, the citadel and dwelling houses in populous areas such as Thuong Tu and Dong Ba. Phosphorous bombs and napalm, banned by international conventions, were used against the population and palaces and houses. Tear and vomiting gases were sprayed on the people rising up to wrest back their legitimate national and democratic rights.

These destructive bombings and shellings have not only killed thousands of civilians, but jeopardized the lives of tens of thousands of others and destroyed the cultural works of a people. They have occurred not only in Hue but in many other cities and towns of South Viet Nam. On Feb. 13, B.52 strategic bombers raided an area in the suburbs of Saigon and, according to *AFP*, killed 44 people and wounded 57 others. This is another case of genocide committed by the U.S. aggressors against the Vietnamese people and condemned by the B. Russell International Tribunal at its Stockholm and Copenhagen sessions.

Nothing, however, can subjugate the people in Hue and other cities of South Viet Nam since they have risen up. The battle of the armed forces and people in Hue city has entered its fourth week. Many counter-attacks of U.S. Marines and the puppet army have been fought back. Despite U.S. bombing, the Hue people have carried the day, developed their strength and are holding aloft their banner of victory over the city. The U.S. aggressors and their quislings have landed in a desperate situation. From this life-and-death struggle, a people's revolutionary committee, the first people's power in South Viet Nam, has been set up in Hue and Thua Thien to organize and lead the war of resistance, thus contributing actively to the South Vietnamese people's struggle for independence, freedom and peace.

SONGS AND DANCES IN HUE

AFTER the armed forces and people of Thua Thien—Hue had become masters of the city, a shock group of the Liberation Art Ensemble came to entertain the people with some performances. In the outskirts, the Liberation troops' guns were still crashing at the fleeing enemy. Tens of thousands of people turned out to watch the show, including old folks leaning on their sticks, who lived two or three kilometres away.

The items performed—songs and dances, specimens of a vigorous and wholesome art—expressed love for the country, depicted the courage and resourcefulness of the people and armed forces of Hue and of our entire nation. They made the spectators feel they were living the happiest moments of their lives.

"Oh, what wonderful fighters you are, and what wonderful singers too!" exclaimed an old woman, clasping a performer in her arms. An elderly professor, who had lived for a long time in Hue, expressed his admiration:

"I want to express my appreciation to the Revolution and to you all, of your ability not only to fight them enemy, firing guns and wielding bayonets, but also to preserve and develop the national heritage, the rich culture left by our forefathers."

After the performance, people crowded around the artistes, presenting them with bouquets, asking them about themselves and their families. Children insisted on being taught the new songs. Everybody wanted to show his love and admiration for the artistes of the Liberation, which he had been nurturing for many years.

(From a report by *Giai Phong Press Agency*)

Latest News

ON Feb. 24, 1968, in the day time and at night, the P.L.A.F. fiercely pounded the Da Nang U.S. airbase, the Nuoc Man heliport southeast of this airbase, and the airfield at Can Tho provincial capital (in the Mekong Delta). Enemy losses at the Da Nang airbase and the Nuoc Man heliport included 20 aircraft and many military vehicles destroyed, U.S. sources admitted.